

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4891
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2005
RECOGNITION OF HINDU RELIGION IN FRANCE
Chouhan Shri Shivraj Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether approximately one lakh Hindus live in Paris but the Government of France has not accorded any recognition to the Hindu religion in their country and there is a ban on the construction of temple there;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to take up the matter with the Government of France to impress upon them to accord recognition to Hindu religion on the lines of other religions and to grant permission for the construction of temple their; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regards?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)(b) It is estimated that of an approximate 65,000 Persons of Indian Origin in France, 50,000 are believed to be Hindus. Government of France provides freedom of religious expression within the framework of its secular traditions and principles, but conspicuous display of religious symbols, such as head-scarves and turbans, is prohibited. Construction of religious buildings, such as temples, is allowed with the approval of local authorities.

c) Does not arise